(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to make available funds for these zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The government has approved 15 Agri Export zones so far to make agricultural exports more competitive.

(b) The details of the Agri Export Zones are as follows:

1. Pineapple in West Bengal
2. Gherkins in Kamataka
3. Lychee in Uttranchal
4. Vegetables in Punjab
5. Potatoes in Uttar Pradesh
6. Mangoes in Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow)
7. Potatoes in Punjab
8. Mangoes in Uttar Pradesh (Saharanpur)
9. Grapes and Grape Wine in Maharashtra
10. Mango Pulp and Fresh Vegetables in Andhra Pradesh
11. Pineapple in Tripura
12. Potatoes, Onion and Garlic in Madhya Pradesh
13. Mangoes in Maharashtra
14. Apples in Jammu and Kashmir
15. Flowers in Tamil Nadu

(c) The Central Government agencies would provide funds from their existing approved schemes and budget.

Declaration of TRIPS on Health Sector

†489. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether declaration regarding Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and health have been issued in Doha conference of World Trade organisation despite all types of apprehensions;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be the effect of this declaration of Indian Drug Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement on Public health affirms that the TRIPS Agreement can and should be interpreted to protect public health and promote access to medicines for all. The Declaration recognizes the affordability and availability of medicines as a universal right. The Ministers agreed that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to protect public health. The Declaration reaffirms the Members' right to use, to the full, the flexibility of compulsory license and parallel import for the purpose of public health. It clarifies that the Government have freedom to determine the grounds to grant compulsory licenses-. The Declaration also clarifies that each Member has the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency for issuing compulsory license on an expeditious basis. The Declaration also clarifies that each Member is free to establish its own regime for exhaustion of IPRs.

The Declaration recognizes the problem of countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector in effectively using the flexibility of compulsory license and instructs the TRIPS Council to find an expeditious solution to this problem and to report to the GeneralCouncil before the end of 2002. The Declaration provides that the LDC Members will not be obliged, with respect to pharmaceutical products, to implement the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement relating to patent protection and undisclosed information until 1.1.2016.

The Declaration would allow more flexible interpretation of the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement in undertaking measures to protect public health. The declaration clarifies the flexibilities available in the TRIPS Agreement relating to compulsory license and parallel import and removes ambiguities in the developing countries about freedom to utilize these flexibilities. The Indian Pharmaceutical industry would also benefit in catering to the demand generated by authrization of parallel import and compulsory license.

Extension of TRIPS Provisions

490. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to seek extension of TRIPS provisions for dispensation of items other than wines and spirits under Article 23;